

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**Proposed Improvement to Bristol Street in Elkhart, Elkhart County**

The City of Elkhart will host a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at the Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 4206 E. Bristol Street, Elkhart, IN 46514, the Hearing will begin at 5:30 pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to improve Bristol Street in Elkhart, Elkhart County, IN. The purpose of the project is to improve left turn mobility for vehicles, improve existing surface drainage facilities, and to reduce the potential of vehicle and pedestrian conflicts while also increasing pedestrian mobility along Bristol Street.

The proposed project is to widen Bristol Street to accommodate one 11-foot wide through lane in each direction with a center two way-left-turn lane (TWTL) throughout most of the project corridor. The existing four-lane section between Jeanwood Drive to just east of Pinewood Elementary School will be reduced to the proposed three-lane typical roadway section allowing the roadway cross-section to be reallocated for other uses (i.e. sidewalk, multi-use path). The existing two-lane section between Pinewood Elementary School and just west of Glenwood Park Drive will be maintained due to minimal drives and/or access points. The existing two-lane section from just west of Glenwood Park Drive to County Road (CR) 15 will be widened to the three-lane typical roadway section. A retaining wall is proposed at a location in the project area where steep drop-offs are present. Concrete curbs and gutters, curb inlets, and storm sewers will be constructed from just west of Glenwood Park Drive to the end of the project. New curbs and gutters, curb inlets, and modifications to the existing storm sewer will occur along the section of Bristol Street where the number of lanes will be reduced. A 5-foot wide sidewalk will be constructed along the north side of the roadway and a sodded buffer strip, typically 5-foot wide, will be installed between the curb and sidewalk. A 10-foot wide multi-use path will be constructed along the south side of the roadway and a sodded buffer strip, typically 5-foot wide, will be installed between the curb and multi-use path.

The proposed construction of this project will require approximately 5.247 acres of new permanent right-of-way and approximately 1.296 acres of temporary right-of-way. No relocations are anticipated.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan will require phased construction while maintaining one lane of traffic in each direction. Temporary short-term closures (less than 30 days) may be required to complete construction at isolated locations along the corridor. Access to all properties along the project area will be maintained during construction. New curb ramp and sidewalk construction will result in the temporary closure and detour of existing sidewalks. Advanced warning signs will be used to detour pedestrian traffic to avoid construction areas at existing sidewalks. Temporary asphalt pavement and a temporary barrier will be constructed along the south side of Bristol Street for pedestrian use during Phase 1b. Pedestrian traffic will then be directed to use the newly-constructed sidewalks along the north side of Bristol Street during Phase 2 and Phase 3. Pedestrian detours will be ADA-compliant, and access will be maintained to all facilities within and adjacent to the project area. The MOT along Bristol Street will require lane restrictions and will be conducted in four phases.

MOT for Phase 1a will close the south side of Bristol Street while temporary pavement is constructed. The temporary pavement will be utilized during future MOT phases. Traffic will be shifted to the north and two approximately 10-foot wide travel lanes (one in each direction) will be maintained.

MOT for Phase 1b will close the westbound travel lane as well as the shoulder and sidewalk along the north side of the roadway. Westbound traffic will be shifted south to the eastbound travel lane. Eastbound traffic will be

shifted south to the temporary pavement that was constructed in Phase 1a. Two lanes of traffic (one in each direction) will be maintained while construction commences on the westbound travel lane and the TWTL.

MOT for Phase 2 will close the eastbound travel lane as well as the shoulder and temporary pavement along the south side of the roadway. Eastbound traffic will be shifted north to the TWTL that was constructed in Phase 1b. Westbound traffic will utilize the newly constructed westbound travel lane. Two lanes of traffic (one in each direction) will be maintained.

MOT for Phase 3 will close Bristol Street to through traffic between Jeanwood Drive and Greenwood Park Drive. The detour will divert eastbound traffic to the north along Jeanwood Drive for approximately 0.38 mile to Evergreen Place. The detour route will then move east/southeast along Evergreen Place for approximately 0.71 mile, and then back to Bristol Street. The inverse will be used for westbound traffic.

Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to the natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. This document and project information can be mailed upon request. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Elkhart Public Library, 300 S. 2nd Street, Elkhart, IN 46516
2. American Structurepoint, Inc. website: www.structurepointpublic.com/bristolstreet

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the Public Hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the Public Hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of two (2) weeks following the Hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the Public Hearing and within the comment period to: Scott Farrell, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-mail: sfarrell@structurepoint.com. **The City of Elkhart respectfully requests comments be submitted by February 6, 2023.**

With advance notice, the City of Elkhart will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the Hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the Hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, the City of Elkhart will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact Scott Farrell, American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-mail: sfarrell@structurepoint.com.

In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please call Scott Farrell, American Structurepoint Inc., at 317-547-5580 to learn of any postponement of the Public Hearing. If the Public Hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/Public Hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.